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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair*

Energy and Technology Committee  
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Testimony In Support of  
SB 450 AAC Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse a number of sections of this bill. These sections address the need for efficiency programs for oil heat customers; the value of moving from petroleum based energy to natural gas; promotion of electric vehicles (EVs) through accelerated installation of charging infrastructure; and expansion of energy efficient combined heat and power systems.

In particular, we enthusiastically support these sections:

Section 1. Reestablishes the fuel oil conservation account funded with excess petroleum products gross earnings.

Section 3. Creates a natural gas vehicle pilot program for municipal fleets. Replacement of motor vehicle petroleum fuels with natural gas lowers harmful emissions, improves air quality, and lowers releases of global warming gases.

Section 4. Requires DEEP to explore ways of converting oil-heated buildings to natural gas and to study ways of increasing the efficiency of heating oil use.

Section 5. Requires DEEP study ways of including heating oil dealers in projects to promote energy efficiency.

Section 21. Provides fuel neutrality for customers desiring to participate in the subsidized Home Energy Solutions audit program, and take advantage of efficiency upgrade programs.

Section 22. Requires changes to the state building code to provide for EV infrastructure, including 240V fast charge systems for both residential and commercial construction.

Section 23. Would allow access to HOV lanes by hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles.

Section 24. Would establish a EV Infrastructure account to provide grants to businesses for installation of such equipment. However, it does not identify a source of funding for this account.

Section 27. Calls for a development of a plan to promote EVs and in particular, installation of level III fast charging stations.

Section 28. Provides for financial incentives for development of combined heat and power systems which maximizes deployment of such CHP systems.